

OneAccord

December 2018

A photograph of four young adults (three women and one man) smiling and posing together in front of patterned curtains. The woman on the far left has red hair and is wearing a white top with a large floral print. The woman next to her has long brown hair and is wearing a black top. The woman in the center has long dark hair and is wearing a black top. The man on the far right has short brown hair and a beard, wearing a black and white striped polo shirt.

FOI FOUNDATION OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

Writer's Block

Why Would God Allow Me
to Suffer Like This?

Journeys and Reflections

Frank and Charlene McCrady

personal from the president

Winter Family Weekend

This year my wife and I noticed that in our neighborhood Christmas decorations began to appear two weeks prior to Thanksgiving! For me, that is an all-time record. And when we were in the Philippines in early November, we were introduced to the 100-day countdown to Christmas that is evidently an important time for the Filipinos. The major stores and malls were all lit up with Christmas colors and decorations. Surprisingly, they actually begin this annual countdown the first week of October.

Here in the U.S. we have a countdown of sorts as well. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is the biggest shopping day of the year as people rush to grab the sales and fill out their Christmas gift selections. From there, things intensify right up until Dec. 25. Shopping malls are packed, and you would think that everyone was rich, given the money being spent.

In spite of the shallow effort to make Christmas about families, it is truly nothing more than a commercialized extravaganza built on a pagan celebration! In fact, statistically there is more crime around Christmas time than other times of the year. According to the website oxygen.com, "It's that time of year again. A time for holiday cheer and carols and ... crime." A crime prevention blog notes that retail crime increases by 30 percent during the Christmas season (cpss.net/about/blog/2013/11/stay-safe-crime-rates-increase-during-holiday-season/).

Each year I am very happy and thankful that I have never been involved in the Christmas "spirit," which seems to mean overspending, overdrinking, violent behavior and disappointment when you don't get what you want as a gift.

In the midst of all this madness, for many years the Church of God has sponsored a family weekend that provides for the very opposite experience. It is truly for the family, and it provides an opportunity to get away from the pagan activities that seem to grip our nation the latter part of December. We don't celebrate Christmas, but we are happy to use the time off from work to get together with people of like mind; to take Bible classes; and to enjoy biblically based seminars, Bible studies, Sabbath services, dances and sports activities.

For many years we have held two such special weekends—one in Louisville, Kentucky, and one in Portland, Oregon. This year there will only be one, and that will be in Louisville at a venue we have used for many years—the Galt House in the downtown area.

This year we are adding a new element to the Winter Family Weekend. In the past we have sponsored a Young Adults' Leadership Weekend in the month of February, conducting five or six of these events on a regional basis throughout the U.S. As a result of numerous requests, we have chosen to add the key elements of the Young Adults' Leadership Weekend to the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville. So, this year, in addition to all the traditional activities, we will have special seminars and social activities designed for the young adults.

In John 13:35 the apostle John writes, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John is describing Christianity, which has at its core a love for the brethren. The most exciting thing about the Winter Family Weekend is being together with so many brethren in one place. With smaller congregations spread around the country, it isn't always easy to get together. We anticipate more than 1,000 brethren will be together for this year's Winter Family Weekend. Meeting new people and catching up with old friends make the time spent very special—truly a way of expressing love for one another.

I hope you will consider joining us this year. When you truly love the brethren, it is easy to walk away from the darkness of this world into the light of God's truth. When you have a deep love for one another, opportunities such as the Winter Family Weekend are precious and much appreciated.



Jim Franks

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



CHURCH of GOD

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Cover photo is of this year's FOI volunteers serving in Jordan: Ginny Morris, Amberly Walton, and Sela and Wyatt Snyder (photo by Codi Lyn Cole).

Frank and Charlene McCrady



On Dec. 15, 2014, Frank McCrady, a longtime and well-known Church of God minister, was laid to rest after serving in a number of congregations during his 50-plus years in the ministry.

Mr. McCrady was baptized in 1953. He was ordained a local elder in 1959, a preaching elder in 1963 and a pastor in 1980. He attended Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, from 1960 to 1962. After completing his studies, Mr. McCrady was sent on extensive baptizing tours, both in the Deep South and in the far north of the United States. His first pastoral duties were in Oakland, Sacramento and Santa Barbara, California, from 1963 to 1969.

Frank McCrady married Charlene Robb of Illinois on Oct. 27, 1979, in Long Island, New York. They served in the Manhattan, Long Island, Brooklyn-Queens and Westchester, New York, churches. Mr. McCrady began the Westchester church

following *The Plain Truth* lecture series in the early 1980s.

The McCradys enjoyed a variety of activities in the years that followed. Mr. McCrady served as the Festival coordinator in Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, from 1981 to 1983, and then in Kerrville, Texas, from 1997 to 1999. He worked at the Church's youth camp in Big Sandy, Texas, in 1988 along with his son Frank III. In addition to working for the Church in the pastoral ministry, Mr. McCrady was also an avid pilot and pilot instructor for several years.



Pastoring

When asked what she and her husband enjoyed most about pastoring and serving God's people, Mrs. McCrady responded that they enjoyed *everything* about it.

She recalled her husband's dedication to the ministry: "His love of God and His Word never wavered [and was] followed by compassion for people and animals.

"Hospitality was enjoyed very much in every area, for there was never a dull moment around him. He always enjoyed working with people and seeing them find their potential in God's family.

"Early on, as he began learning the truth, he asked for God's help to retain His Word, and this gift was apparent even to the end."

Inspiring experiences

Mrs. McCrady recalled some of the experiences her husband had:

When on baptizing tours, the men sent out were to meet two or three



people and were allotted enough time for counseling those two or three. However, upon arrival there would often be as many as 10 people waiting to counsel. This meant that some of these additional prospective members had to wait for a follow-up team of ministers to meet with them.

Mr. McCrady always befriended the unconverted mates of members, easing the strain on them. Occasionally these mates were called and came into the Church. Children were friends as well. They would run up to him and wrap their arms around his legs. He was like a grandpa to them.

When serving in the St. Louis, Missouri, and Belleville, Illinois, area, Mr. McCrady learned there were five families that had come out of a Protestant church in Illinois and were meeting on the Sabbath (Friday nights) to read and pray together. They had been listening to the broadcast, reading the literature and taking the Bible Correspondence Course, but they didn't know that there was a local Church of God congregation. Mr. McCrady reached out to them, and it became apparent God was calling them. All were baptized within the following year.

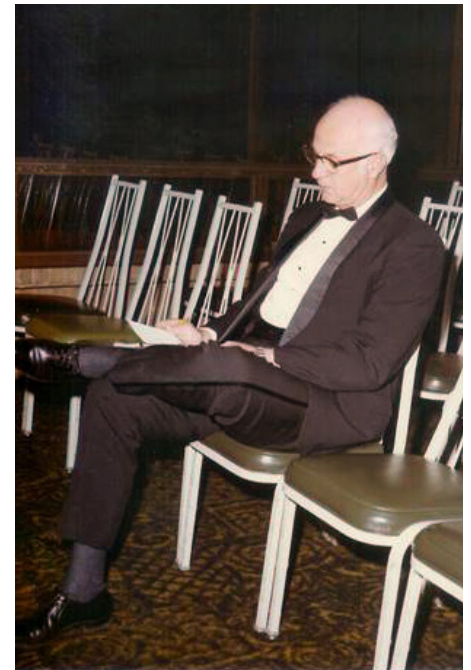
One of the more memorable experiences Mr. McCrady had was when his son Frank III, at age 12, found the Church's literature that answered his questions about the future. As a young boy, he had been searching for answers that the Catholic Church had not been able to provide. At the age of 15, he started studying the Bible, and ultimately he became a member of the Church as well.

In 1985 the extended McCrady family was able to spend the Feast of Tabernacles together in Israel. "What a blessing!" Charlene recalled.

Lesson learned

Mrs. McCrady reflected that the biggest lesson they learned as a couple shepherding God's people would have to be that "when you love people and set *the right example*, nothing speaks louder or is more effective."

She concluded, "It was my privilege to share the last 35 years with this kind and loving man." ☺☺



On the Road Again

The following are the congregations Mr. McCrady served from 1959 to 2013 (in chronological order):

Chicago, Illinois
El Paso, Illinois
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Los Angeles, California
South Bend, Indiana
Elkhart, Indiana
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Wichita, Kansas
Garden City, Kansas
Liberal, Kansas
Oakland, California
Sacramento, California
Santa Barbara, California

Reno, Nevada
St. Louis, Missouri*
Belleville, Illinois*
Houston, Texas
Lake Charles, Louisiana
Pasadena, Texas
Mount Vernon, Illinois
Long Island, New York
Manhattan, New York
Westchester, New York
Indianapolis, Indiana
Columbus, Indiana
Terre Haute, Indiana

Big Sandy, Texas
Gladewater, Texas
Lufkin, Texas
Shreveport, Louisiana
East Texas**

*Served in this congregation twice

**Served after retirement in 2002



WRITER'S **BLOCK**

*Why
Would
God
Allow
Me to
Suffer
Like
This?*

Sometimes a personal health trial leads us to ask questions like, "Why me?" or "Why can't God just take away my pain? Doesn't He see it?" What can we learn from suffering?

By Cassandra Ebersole

These are all questions that are asked when we go through major life trials. Sometimes we cry and maybe, for a moment, question our faith. I've asked myself some of these questions.

Earlier this year, I was diagnosed with cancer, and I kept asking myself, "*Why right now?*" I was only 20 years old. I had only recently graduated from college and moved away from home, and I had only been married for six months.

I had all these questions.

But then I was able to gain some perspective when I thought about what the Father allowed His only Son to go through. Christ endured more suffering than I could ever imagine. So I had to ask myself, what could I possibly learn from such a painful time in my life? Perhaps what I have learned can help others facing similar trials.

1. I was not being punished.

As Christians, we are to model ourselves after Christ (1 John 2:6). Jesus Christ went through more trials and pain than we will ever experience. He was persecuted, rejected, ridiculed, beaten and killed. But why? Because He chose to. He loves us and wants us to be in His family. God was not punishing Christ. But Christ did learn from the trials and pain He experienced (Hebrews 5:8).

Have you ever gone through something so hard that you thought you just might not survive it? We should always remember that God wants us to learn from those trials. It may be patience, strength, experience or something completely different. I'm constantly learning new lessons through my trial.

Paul wrote in Romans 5:3-4: "We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

As human beings, we are constantly learning. Our brains are designed to soak up whatever is given to them. Therefore when we go through a trial, we are learning something. We usually don't understand it immediately, but we will in time.

Every time I think I've learned all I possibly could, my eyes are opened a little more to something I need to learn. I would *never* want to go through this again, but in the end, I've learned more lessons than I would have otherwise. These lessons could only be learned through a trial like this. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:3, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

2. God loves us more than anything and has a plan for us.

In 1 John 4:16 we are told that God is love, and that His people will practice love. Since God is love, He wouldn't make us suffer just to see us suffer. As we already considered, God wants us to learn lessons. He wants us to apply those lessons now and in the future. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (New International Version).

His purpose is for us to be in His family. Have you sat and thought about that when you're suffering? It's a comforting thought, in times of trial, to know that God loves us and has a purpose for us.

When I was first diagnosed, I thought I was going to break. My whole world flipped upside down. But ultimately it helped me learn that God can do all things. His strength can make up for anything I lack.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

3. God does heal.

Isaiah 53:5 tells us: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." Later in the Bible we read that we are to be anointed when we are sick (James 5:14).

A month before I was diagnosed, I was anointed, asking God to reveal why I was constantly ill. Exactly a month later, I was in the hospital where they finally found the cause: a tumor.

God hears our prayers. He is our healer. We are to rejoice in the fact that He has promised us a future with no pain, which is because He will heal all sicknesses and injuries in His Kingdom (Revelation 21:4). Psalm 103:2-3 says, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases."

Throughout my whole cancer journey, I've experienced more blessings than I can count. My staging should have been III or IV; the tumor should have invaded my organs and bones; and I shouldn't have tolerated my treatments so well. My doctors were all astounded by my progress. I know God was right there with me and my family throughout the trial. He will heal me (and everyone else), but it will be in His time. Some He heals in this life, and some He will heal in the future.

We must remain faithful to receive His promises. "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us" (2 Timothy 2:11-12).

To learn more, read our article about "[Divine Healing](#)." ©⁴

Q

Is praying, praising and worshipping God, and preaching the gospel of Christ on Christmas wrong for Christians? I don't think our celebration of Christmas as Christians should be looked on as if we were doing it like pagans, who burned offerings to their gods. We celebrate this day to make us remember our position and our belief in Christ Jesus.

A

Allow us to explain why we disagree. Our present world too often deals only in the superficial. But the true faith of the Bible requires one to go deeper. That's why we have published much on the subject of Christmas observance—to enable those who want to know the truth to discover it. Modern Christians need to think as deeply as the first-century Christians mentioned in Acts 17:10-11.

By way of background, some people of Thessalonica violently opposed the gospel preached by Paul and Silas. The unbelievers literally organized a mob to silence them. To save the ministers' lives, local Christians "immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

Obviously, the fact that the Bereans were willing to listen was a welcome contrast to the previous antagonism. But there is more. The audience did not merely accept what was said at face value. They used the Scriptures to verify the message that they heard. We encourage our audiences today to do the same with Christmas.

The real question is whether adding Christian themes to a holiday that is rooted in paganism can decontaminate it. Can this approach "redeem Christmas" from its pagan heritage? It's not a matter of what a given group—or even a majority—of Christians might find acceptable. What worship would God accept?



PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 gives remarkably clear guidance, for here God addresses whether the religious customs of the hill people of Canaan (who were unquestionably pagan) could be cleansed and transformed into worship that God would accept:

"When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, ... take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them ... and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way."

The passage concludes: "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

God never told His people to celebrate Christmas—or anything similar to it! He commanded the celebration of special days in the spring, early summer and fall, but none in the winter. And these days are repeated throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments.

True believers must separate themselves entirely from celebrating pagan practices and instead celebrate the days God made holy. Open the link embedded in this title: "[Plan of Salvation: How God's Festivals Reveal His Plan.](#)" You will find articles on each of the biblical festivals, which thoroughly explain how relevant and valid keeping them is for every true believer. If you prefer, we also present the topic in short videos in our [Learning Center](#). Scroll down the page to "Study Resources" and click on "video series." Then select "[Feasts of the Lord.](#)" ©[®]



FOUNDATION OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

What have we done this year? What is planned for 2019?

Through the generous efforts of our volunteers, supporters and advocates, FOI has been doing “a world of good” in 2018. And we look forward to continuing our mission to provide assistance, support and volunteers for humanitarian and educational projects in 2019!

Accomplishments of 2018

FOI Scholarship Fund: So far in 2018, FOI has been able to provide scholarships for 48 students—six from Kenya, 18 from Malawi, seven from Nigeria, 11 from Rwanda, one from South Africa, three from Zambia and two from Zimbabwe. We currently have nine applications in process, and we project that by the end of 2018, we will have supported around 60 students!

African Youth Camps: In December we will have five volunteers, from four continents, serving 70 to 100 Church youth at the Kenya youth camp. In addition to working at the camp itself, the volunteers will also visit nature parks and historically significant sites in Kenya, learning more about the culture of these delightful people. They will also have the opportunity to keep the Sabbath with one of the larger congregations in the country, enabling them to meet many more of our brethren and experience a taste of life in Africa.

Hilltop Outreach Program: Through this program, Church members have been involved in 15 community service projects in 2018. These projects have served people in local communities as well as members in need in local congregations across the country.

African English Projects: During the summer of 2018, FOI funded and prepared six volunteers—two from South Africa and four from the United States—to continue teaching English in Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, benefiting upwards of 100 brethren. Volunteers in all three locations were able to visit one of the local congregations and have the opportunity to meet and interact with the brethren on the Sabbath.

Rwanda Dental Project: This past summer FOI sponsored two volunteers to provide dental services to the Rwandan people, including many Church members.

Jordan Project: This year, we have four volunteers serving on our project in Jordan. Our volunteers are serving as art and vocational teachers at the YMWA Centre for Special Education and as assistant teachers and administrative assistants at the Amman Baccalaureate School. The volunteers are thoroughly enjoying their immersion into Jordanian culture.

Embark: In addition to working with new “travelers,” Embark partnered with Foundation Institute and taught a series of classes, with lessons on personality testing, financial empowerment and information interviews.

What's planned for 2019

FOI Scholarship Fund: We expect next year's numbers to be similar. Most, if not all, of these students would not be able to continue their education without the support of the scholarship fund.

African Youth Camps: Where camps are held each year rotates between Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya. Next year's camp will take place in Ghana in mid-August 2019, and our desire is to have four qualified and enthusiastic FOI volunteers

serving the 70 to 100 Church youth expected to attend. We also want to send volunteers to staff the next youth camp in Kenya, planned for December 2020.

Hilltop Outreach Program: We are hoping to again have 15 or more projects that will serve our local communities and our brethren.

African English Projects: Our hope is to have four volunteers from around the world to once again provide English instruction in Zambia and Zimbabwe in the summer of 2019. Our brethren from these two countries benefit from this unique program that teaches basic vocabulary words. We also hope to send two young adults

to teach English to our brethren in Rwanda. These classes would accompany the Rwanda Dental Project.

Rwanda Dental Project: This next summer, we plan to sponsor at least one dentist to provide dental services for our brethren and the Rwandan people.

Jordan Project: Once again we are planning for four to five volunteers to serve in this 10-month program sponsored by the Jordanian royal family.

Embark: In 2019 Embark will continue teaching at Foundation Institute classes and will also host a one-day seminar, with interactive teaching and lessons, for anyone who is interested. ©A

How Can You Help?

There are many ways you can get involved with FOI.

Donate

Be a sustaining member: You can provide a reliable source of income for projects with year-end gifts as well as recurring monthly gifts.

Adopt a project: You can give to one or more of your favorite projects and build connections with people all over the world.

Use corporate matching: Double or triple your gift through company-sponsored matching programs. Check to see if retirees and spouses qualify.

Sign up for reward programs: You can take advantage of FOI's partnership with several rewards programs and do a world of good while you shop.

- **smile.Amazon.com:** The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of eligible Amazon purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Just match "Foundation Outreach International" to your account.
- **FOI.ShutterflyStorefront.com:** Shutterfly enables users to create personalized photo gifts with their own photos and text—gifts such as photo books, home decor and more. Simply go to FOI.ShutterflyStorefront.com and then click Shutterfly. When you purchase through our storefront, Shutterfly will donate 13 percent of the total sale directly to Foundation Outreach International.

- **FOI-Gallery.pixels.com:** Browse through images from professional and seasoned photographers and images from the projects we sponsor. These images can be turned into 25-plus different products, ranging from greeting cards to throw pillows. Proceeds from your purchases go to support the FOI projects.
- **Kroger Rewards:** Simply enroll in Kroger Community Rewards online at Kroger.com and link your Kroger Reward Card. Then pick "Foundation Outreach International" as your preferred nonprofit organization.

Volunteer

Your volunteer efforts will provide vital help to people in need, further worthwhile causes and build communities. But you will also benefit greatly. Serving will engage you in a greater cause, put you on a winning team and help you develop skills. Reap the rewards of serving by volunteering for an FOI project.

Contact

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But wait, there's more!

Get our latest updates and more sent right to your inbox.
jane@foundationoutreachintl.org



ST. PETERSBURG TEEN HONORED

Andrea Mastauskas was inducted into the National Honor Society on Monday evening, Oct. 22, 2018. Andrea, a junior at Pinellas Park High School, attends the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation with her brothers, Anthony and Andrew; aunts; cousins; and grandparents, Tom and Joy Kosharek.

Charles Haughee



ATHENS-PARKERSBURG AND MORGANTOWN HOLD CHILI COOK-OFF

The Athens, Ohio – Parkersburg, West Virginia, congregation and the Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation joined for their 13th annual chili cook-off on Nov. 11, 2018.

After thoroughly sampling the eight chili recipes, the judges decided that the honor of first place would go to Lynn Alleman of the Athens-Parkersburg congregation. Second place went to Samuel Travers, also of Athens-Parkersburg, and third place went to Sherry Beilstein of the Morgantown congregation.

After the judging, everyone sat down to enjoy the chili and other food provided—as well as some light-hearted fellowship and fun.

Josh Travers



LOUISVILLE SAYS FAREWELL

After services Sept. 8, 2018, the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation hosted a farewell reception for Glade and Kelsey Pennington before their relocation to the Twin Cities in Minnesota. They will be missed along with their service to the congregation. We send them off with prayers for happiness in their new area and hopes that they will visit often.

Carolyn Winner



MINNESOTA CONGREGATIONS EXTEND FEAST EXCITEMENT

Wouldn't it be awesome to keep that post-Feast excitement around a little longer? On Oct. 27 after services, the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, Minnesota, congregations did that! Members of our congregation attended sites in Woodbury, Minnesota; Rapid City, South Dakota; San Diego, California; Australia; New Zealand; England; Italy; and Canada.

Our annual post-Feast social began with a potluck meal after Sabbath services. During dinner, Feast pictures were scrolling on two screens in the room, while many of the conversations revolved around our Feast experiences. Once the meal was complete, our master of ceremonies for the evening, Dan Creed, began the program. After he introduced the purpose of the evening—talking about our physical and spiritual Feast highlights—we began passing the microphone around to those who had experiences to share.

Our youngest contributor had the opportunity to go parasailing in San Diego. Others related stories about people they came in contact with, strengthening the meaning of the Feast for them. Members saw the natural beauty and learned the history of the locations they visited. Learning, fellowship and fun characterized the experiences that were shared.

Where will everyone attend the Feast in 2019? We can't wait to see what is in store for next year!

Barbara Lee



SOUTHEASTERN CONGREGATIONS CAMP

July 6-8, 29 campers—representing the Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Jefferson, Georgia; and Laurel, Mississippi, congregations—ascended the mountain of Cheaha State Park in Alabama for a weekend of primitive camping in tents and hammocks.

The group arrived Friday afternoon to set up, and we welcomed in the Sabbath with dinner and a Bible study given by Daniel Harper. On the morning of the Sabbath, services began with singing and a sermon by Mr. Harper on the past, present and future of the Sabbath in God's Kingdom.

The Sabbath ended with a walk as the sun began to set. After our walk, Bible charades were enjoyed by all, and we spent the rest of the evening fellowshiping. We loaded our cars Sunday morning, promising to spread the word about our time and return next year.

Chant'a Collier

BUFFALO REVIVES AN OLD ACTIVITY AND STARTS A NEW

The Buffalo, New York, congregation returned to an annual camp activity after many years of not having one. During the weekend of June 12-15, 17 members of the Buffalo church and one visiting member from the Queens, New York, congregation spent three days and two nights at Allegany State Park near Salamanca, New York.

The weather was spectacular, and the event was enhanced by an outdoor Sabbath service and a visit to the park's beach. The final evening many members launched sky lanterns into a clear, calm sky. The event was so successful that the congregation is already planning for next year. If you would like to participate in next year's Buffalo campout, please contact Rachel Koenig at rakoenig@roadrunner.com.

Then on June 30, the Buffalo congregation held its first annual picnic on Goat Island in Niagara Falls following Sabbath services in Buffalo. The day was warm but sunny, and it was the first time some had ever seen Niagara Falls.

The event was hosted by Brenda Florio, a Niagara Falls native. She put together an assortment of sandwiches and vegetables for all who attended. Despite the warm and humid conditions, the event went well into the early evening. Not only were most of the members of the Buffalo congregation in attendance but also members from Toronto, Ontario, and a member from Queens made the trip out for the day. Plans for more such picnics are expected in the next few years.

Stephan Koenig





Anniversaries



Pauline and Tom Norman

Tom and Pauline Norman of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sept. 29, 2018. Tom and Pauline are longtime members of the Church.

We held a reception to honor them for this special milestone after Sabbath services on Oct. 27, 2018.

Ron Kelley



Barry and Carolyn Brooks

Oct. 24 was a very special day for Barry and Carolyn Brooks—their 50th

anniversary! The Berthoud congregation honored them on Oct. 20, and all enjoyed the cake provided for this special milestone.

Both are longtime members of the Church. Carolyn was present at the Feast of Tabernacles in 1951 at Belknap Springs. Barry attended Ambassador College in Pasadena from 1964-66, and Carolyn attended Imperial Schools.

Barry is one of the regular song leaders in the Berthoud congregation. Carolyn has a beautiful soprano voice and sings special music, especially on the holy days.

Larry Neff

Baptisms



Lauren Penney

The Trenton, Georgia, congregation is very happy to welcome a newly baptized member! Lauren Penney was baptized at her home on Aug. 12, 2018, by her pastor, Tom Kirkpatrick. Her husband, Dale Penney, was in attendance.

Lauren has been associated with the Church of God for many years through family. The congregation is thankful to have a new spiritual sister!

Annette Epperson



Erin Everett

Erin Everett of the Quakertown, Pennsylvania, congregation was baptized on Monday, Oct. 24, 2018, after the first holy day service at the Catskill Mountains, New York, Feast site.

Over 20 friends and family members (including her 94-year-old grandmother, Peg Bromfield) surrounded the Jacuzzi during the ceremony. Alan Wheeler, a local elder, joined her pastor, Kevin Epps, for the laying on of hands ceremony.

It's a pleasure to see another young adult make this all-important commitment before God.

Kevin Epps

Obituaries



Marie Manus

Marie Miller Manus, 88, passed away on Sept. 28, 2018, at her home in Sedgwick, Arkansas, following a short battle with cancer.

She was born Sept. 14, 1930, in Monette, Arkansas, to the late O.B. and Lela Maxwell Miller. She met her future husband, Harold, when they were both in grade school. They got married during their senior year of high school, on Aug. 10, 1948.

Marie and her family began listening to Herbert W. Armstrong and reading *The Plain Truth* magazine in 1942. Marie began attending services in Memphis, Tennessee, when the congregation was started in the early 1960s. Her first Feast was in 1963 in Big Sandy, Texas, and she was baptized on Pentecost in 1964.

Marie was a fixture in the lives of most in the Sedgwick congregation. She was always willing to drop everything and help out in any way she could. She was legendary for the pies she baked for potlucks, and she would make sure you received a piece of your favorite.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Harold Manus; a son, Dennis Manus (Mary Lou) of El Dorado, Arkansas; two sisters, Aleeta Dame and Reba Berry of Sedgwick; grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and many others.

A celebration of her life was held on Saturday, Oct. 6, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with Justin Adkins and Clyde Kilough officiating.

Marie longed for the return of Jesus Christ, and she lived her life with complete faith in the future Kingdom of God.

Justin Adkins



Ted Osborne

Theodore W. Osborne was born May 31, 1931, and died Oct. 14, 2018, at the age of 87. Ted was the son of the late Steve W. Osborne and Charley Fincher Osborne. Ted is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Wendy Osborne; two grandchildren, Jared and Jessica; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother, Steve Osborne; sister, Charley Buruss; and wife, Irene Morris Osborne.

Ted initially lived on his own after he lost his wife, but later succumbed to health issues that made it necessary for him to live in a health-care facility.

Ted was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and owned and operated Osborne Sign Company for over 20 years. He was also a talented songwriter.

Welcoming the brethren to Sabbath services was a joy for Ted Osborne. He did so for years in the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation. The kids especially liked the silly voices he made for them as he sat in his motorized wheelchair at the church hall door.

Bruce Gore officiated at Ted's funeral on Oct. 17 at Lord and Stephens Funeral Home in Danielsville, Georgia.

Donna Quintana



Brian Bettes

Brian Glenn Bettes, 58, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, at his home in Lewisville, North Carolina. Brian was born on Oct. 13,

1960, in Pasadena, California. He graduated from Ambassador College and received an advanced degree from Regis University.

Brian devoted himself to teaching American Sign Language. His passion for ASL began at age 10 when he met a young deaf man at church who had no one to talk to. His inspiration to learn ASL ignited a career as a professional interpreter.

Brian was known by his family, friends and colleagues as a dedicated educator, prolific writer, aspiring pilot and loving servant who had a commitment to whatever he put his hand to. He was a man of integrity and is remembered for his infectious smile, good sense of humor and beautiful singing voice.

Brian is survived by his wife, Kristin Renae Bettes; three children, James Austin Mangels, Jared Preston Mangels and Leanna Rachelle Mangels; previous wife, Sharon Gunn Neel; two children, Daniel Scott and Alissa Riddle; siblings, Annette (Bettes) Weinerman and David Bettes; and many other family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Charlotte (Howard) Bettes.

A memorial was held on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Lewisville.

Ron Kelley

We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in *One Accord*. We feature events in members' lives, including baptisms, births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), and obituaries. Typically they run between 50 and 100 words; however, we ask that all submissions stay under 250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.



benefiting



Join the Dallas and Fort Worth congregations on Saturday evening, Feb. 9, 2019,
for the 13th Annual Boot Scoot, benefiting the
COGWA Youth Camps Activity and Scholarship Fund!

The evening will be full of a variety of activities, starting with a beef rib dinner and
bake sale, followed by a silent auction, raffle, games and dancing to live music from
the Union House Branch Band. The event will be held at the
Grapevine Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas.

All money raised will be used to provide equipment for our camp program and
financial assistance for campers who need it to attend camp. Our goal is to make
sure that every camper who wants to attend camp is able to go and that each camp
has the equipment to make each session as enjoyable as possible!

Register to attend at

bootscoot.org